

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 18870 011735Z

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ACTION CU-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 /020 W

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R 011651Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1646

INFO USIA WASHDC

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FOR STATE FOR CU/EE, EUR/SOV

USIA FOR IEU

E.O. 11652: /A

TAGS: OEXC, CASC, UR

SUBJECT: PRIVATE EXCHANGE ACTR-PUSHKIN INSTITUTE: ASSAULT ON
STUDENT JULIANA PUKSTA

REF: MOSCOW 18623

1. ON OCTOBER 20, 1976, MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE STUDENT
JULIANA PUKSTA, PARTICIPANT IN PRIVATE EXCHANGE
BETWEEN AMERICAN COUNCIL OF TEACHERS OF RUSSIAN (ACTR) AND
PUSHKIN INSTITUTE OF RUSSIAN LANGUAGE, WAS ASSAULTED
IN SOKOLNIKI PARK. SHE WAS BEATEN ABOUT THE HEAD IN
AN ATTEMPTED RAPE AND THE ASSAILANT, A YOUNG MAN OF
25-30 WHO DESCRIBED HIMSELF AS AN ENGINEER, HAS NOT
YET BEEN APPREHENDED.

2. MISS PUKSTA WAS EXAMINED BY SOVIET MEDICAL AUTHORITIES
EVENING OF THE ATTACK AND FOLLOWING DAY AT UNIVERSITY
HOTEL WHERE SHE RESIDES. AT TIME OFFICIAL POLICE
REPORT WAS FILED, POLICE MEDICAL OFFICER COMPLETED
FULL EXAMINATION AND TOOK FURTHER X-RAYS. MISS PUKSTA
CONSULTED WITH AND WAS EXAMINED BY EMBASSY DOCTOR DAY
FOLLOWING ASSAULT AND WEEK LATER AFTER NERVOUS OUTBURST,
AT THAT TIME, HE JUDGED THAT SHE DID NOT NEED TO BE
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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 18870 011735Z

EVACUATED.

3. PUKSTA AND ACTR GROUP LEADER MARTHA LANG CONSULTED WITH ACAO/EXCHANGES DAY FOLLOWING ASSAULT. ACAO NOTIFIED CONSULAR OFFICER AND ADVISED MISSES PUKSTA AND LANG TO MEET WITH HIM, WHICH THEY DID NOT IMMEDIATELY DO. AFTER FURTHER VISITS TO CULTURAL OFFICE, LANG APPROXIMATELY ONE WEEK LATER DISCUSSED WITH CONSULAR OFFICER HOW POSSIBLE EARLY DEPARTURE OF MISS PUKSTA MIGHT BE ARRANGED. MISS PUKSTA, HOWEVER, AGAIN DECLINED ADVICE TO VISIT CONSULAR OFFICER AND DID NOT FOLLOW UP ON CAO'S OFFER TO TALK MATTER OVER WITH HER. MISS PUKSTA STATED THAT SHE WISHED TO REMAIN WITH THE GROUP UNTIL ITS SCHEDULED DEPARTURE, AND SHE REITERATED HER DESIRE THAT HER PARENTS AND COLLEGE NOT, RPT, NOT BE INFORMED OF THE ASSAULT. MISS LANG INFORMED ACTR PRESIDENT PROFESSOR DANIEL DAVIDSON AT BRYN MAWR OF THE ASSAULT AND SUBSEQUENT EVENTS, ALSO THAT MISS PUKSTA WAS WORKING SATISFACTORILY ON HER STUDIES.

4. IN THE DAYS AND WEEKS IMMEDIATELY SUBSEQUENT INCIDENT, PUKSTA AND LANG INFORMED EMBASSY THAT SINCE PUSHKIN INSTITUTE AND POLICE WERE ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN PURSUING CASE NO ACTION BY EMBASSY WAS NECESSARY.

5. HOWEVER, SINCE NO PROGRESS ON CASE HAS BEEN REPORTED, ON NOVEMBER 26 EMBASSY SENT DIPLOMATIC NOTE TO MFA/USA CALLING MATTER TO ITS ATTENTION AND ASKING FOR A PROGRESS REPORT. DURING MEETING AT MFA/CULT ON SAME DAY P&C COUNSELOR CALLED MATTER TO ITS ATTENTION, REFERRING TO NOTE. COPIES OF THIS NOTE AND ONE CITED REFTEL HAVE BEEN SENT TO CU/EE AND EUR/SOV.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MOSCOW18870
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760445-1066
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761283/aaaacucn.tel
Line Count: 93
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION CU
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 MOSCOW 18623
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 MAY 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <08 SEP 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRIVATE EXCHANGE ACTR-PUSHKIN INSTITUTE: ASSAULT ON STUDENT JULIANA PUKSTA
TAGS: OEXC, CASC, UR, US, (PUKSTA, JULIANA)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006